

January 21, 1957

Dr. Francis J. Ryan
Department of Zoology
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Dear Francis:

I was very glad to receive your letter of January 17 and the nomination of Mr. Hirota. We have, of course, been following his work on F with some interest, but also unfortunately with some difficulty in reproducing his results. If he worked out nearly as well as Iino has we would be very fortunate to have him here. I am certainly happy to entertain his application and I will write to Professor Kikkawa in those terms.

As usual the rumors concerning our travel plans have been somewhat distorted. Last year or the year before they had us going to Israel which was the first we knew about that. Esther and I have received Fulbright funds to spend a term at the University of Melbourne in the Department of Bacteriology. I hope to use the occasion to spend some time in close contact with Burnet. This will be for the interval from June through September this summer. We have also been able to get an additional one month leave from the university here and are thinking about using that free time for an extended trip to return from Melbourne via India and Europe. Our plans in this regard have not yet crystallized, one of the considerations being the extra seven or eight hundred dollars in travel costs which we would have to find in some fashion. We will therefore be on deck again for the next academic year although we may not get back until about the first of October, 1957. I hope that incorrect news of our plans next year does not spread again and have the effect it did for example on Clowes, who last year retracted an application to work with us on the news that we would be away for the entire year.

We hope to be able to see you before we embark on this trip and we may have the following occasion. In March Esther and I are going to a series of conferences in England. We are flying directly there from Chicago via Paris. However, we hope to stop over at New York on the way back which will be about the first of April. Perhaps we can see you then. Until then,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:nhn